

3/31/99

FACT SHEET

DIRECT FINAL RULE ON INTERPRETATION AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS REGULATION FOR PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTION

TODAY'S ACTION...

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a direct final rule to amend the regulation which controls emissions of air toxics from pulp and paper mills. Air toxics, which are also known as hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health or environmental effects.
- ◆ This interpretive amendment clarifies EPA's original intent regarding nine technical issues the pulp and paper industry raised after EPA issued the original rule. This amendment also corrects a small number of typographical errors.
- ◆ EPA expects this amendment to be of interest to mill owners and operators subject to the rule, and to State and local regulatory agencies with kraft pulp mills in their jurisdictions.
- ◆ The amendment will be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

WHAT DOES THE AMENDMENT TO THE EPA'S PULP AND PAPER AIR TOXICS RULE REQUIRE?

- ◆ The seven technical amendments are in two groups -- emission standard and test requirements and the monitoring and record keeping requirements.
- ◆ Amendments to emission standard and test requirements:
 - 1) Allow process modifications as a control technique for bleach plants standards.
 - 2) Clarify the two condensate streams to be controlled from evaporator systems.
 - 3) Provide a new test procedure for measuring methanol in liquid streams.
 - 4) Specify the minimum sampling times for initial compliance tests.
- ◆ Amendments to the monitoring and recordkeeping requirements:
 - 1) Clarify the continuous monitors requirements for thermal oxidizers.
 - 2) Require condensate tanks to be leak tested initially and annually.
 - 3) Provide an repair schedule for condensate tanks.

- 4) Clarify requirements on extended repair periods for closed vent systems.
- 5) Clarify the recordkeeping requirements for closed collection systems.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS?

- ◆ This amendment clarifies the intent of the original rule and does not change the level of the standard nor the health and environmental benefits.
- ◆ EPA's original final rule reduce air toxics emissions from pulp and paper production by approximately 155,000 tons annually, representing a 60 percent reduction from current levels. In addition, EPA estimates that the original water regulations will result in a 91 percent reduction in dioxin/furan discharges to water and an 82 percent reduction in chloroform discharges.

BACKGROUND

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactam from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of “major” sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).
- ◆ In its July 16, 1992 published list of industry groups to be regulated, EPA identified pulp and paper production as a major source of air toxics. EPA issued the final air toxics rule for pulp and paper production on April 15, 1998 as the air component of the Pulp and Paper Cluster, an innovative regulatory effort addressing both air and water releases from pulp and paper mills.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ◆ Interested parties can download the amendment from EPA's web site on the Internet under “recent actions” at the following address: www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg. For further information about the amendment or the rule itself, contact Stephen Shedd of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5397 or shedd.steve@epa.gov, or visit the pulp and paper air toxics website at the following address: www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/pulp/pulppg.html.

- ◆ EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: [*www.epa.gov/oar/*](http://www.epa.gov/oar/).